

inside

san josé

A City of San José Publication

Spring/Summer 2003

San José Balances the Budget



in this issue

- Recycling 3
- Balancing the Budget 4
- The New King Library 7

San José City Council

Ron Gonzales	Mayor	277-4237
Pat Dando	Vice-Mayor District 10	277-5251
Linda J. LeZotte	District 1	277-5438
Forrest Williams	District 2	277-4282
Cindy Chavez	District 3	277-5231
Chuck Reed	District 4	277-5320
Nora Campos	District 5	277-5157
Ken Yeager	District 6	277-5166
Terry O. Gregory	District 7	277-5226
David D. Cortese	District 8	277-5242
Judy Chirco	District 9	277-5275
Del D. Borgsdorf		277-5849
San José City Manager		

You're Invited to Council Meetings

The San José City Council meets at 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday, and at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency meets every Tuesday following City Council meetings. All meetings are held in the Council Chambers at San José City Hall, 801 N. First St.

Meetings can also be viewed on the web at: www.ci.san-jose.ca.us or on the City's cable TV station, **Channel 37A** Stay tuned ... and stay connected.

*Inside San José is a
publication of the City of San José
801 N. First St. Room 436
San José, CA 95110
(408) 277-5849
insidesan jose@ci.sj.ca.us*



Printed on recycled paper.

**It's time to see
San José InFocus**

*A television news magazine looking
at the past, present & future of San José*
**Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday
& Sunday at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

CIVICCENTER
SAN JOSE CITY TELEVISION
Cable Channel 37A
Upgraded Comcast Area Channel 78



San José's Way of Doing Business Strong Neighborhoods Initiative

In 2000, the Mayor and City Council made a commitment to San José residents to strengthen quality of life in our neighborhoods with the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative.

In partnership with neighborhood residents and businesses, and with resources from the City of San José, San Jose Redevelopment Agency, private investment, and the community, the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative is working to improve neighborhood conditions, enhance community safety, expand community services, and strengthen neighborhood associations and grassroots leadership.

Central to the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative is the Top Ten priority list and SNI plan for each neighborhood. These priorities have been created by neighborhood residents who know best what they need to make their community better.

As a result of the current California budget crisis, the Governor's proposed state budget threatens critical funding for many of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative projects.

Despite recessionary challenges and no growth in projected tax revenues, the Redevelopment Agency remains committed to neighborhood improvements, affordable housing, economic stimulus and job creation.

Street Smarts

Street Smarts – a new public education effort to improve traffic behavior of drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. Five biggest causes of accidents in San José: red-light running; stop sign violations; speeding; school zone violations; and failure to yield to pedestrians.

Interested in having a Street Smarts presentation in your school or neighborhood? Visit www.GetStreetSmarts.org or contact the City of San José Department of Transportation at 408.277.4499.



Alternative Formats Available

This publication can be made available upon request in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, audio-tape or computer disk. Requests can be made by calling (408) 277-4000 (Voice) or (408) 998-5299 (TTY).

One Truck – Two Jobs

You've diligently separated your recyclables and your garbage and placed both carts at curbside. The next morning, you see both carts dumped into the same truck. Aren't recyclables and garbage supposed to be separated?

Yes, they're supposed to be separated, and indeed they are.

The new trucks are split-body trucks. These automated trucks have two compartments separated by a metal barrier. A hydraulic arm lifts each cart to the same place above the hopper. Using a joystick inside the truck cab, the driver shifts the door of the hopper that divides the two compartments. Recyclables always drop into the recycling compartment, and garbage always drops into the garbage compartment. Recyclables and garbage are never mixed.

After completing a route, the driver brings the garbage to

a landfill and the recyclables to a "materials recovery facility," where they are sorted into separate streams of materials (paper, plastics, metals, glass, etc.) using an automated system of conveyor belts, blasts of air, and electromagnets.

San José's automated collection system is very efficient. All that residents need to do is keep their garbage and recyclables separate. Place carts two feet apart at curbside on collection day. By making recycling easy, the Recycle Plus program hopes to capture everything that is recyclable from San José homes. Thanks to your efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle, San José has reduced landfill waste by 64%.

For a list of what's recyclable in San José, visit www.sjrecycles.org or call (408) 277-2700 and ask a Recycle Plus Customer Service representative for a free recycling guide.



Spit-body collection truck

What goes in the garbage cart?

Food waste, pizza boxes, used paper plates and cups, paper towels, disposable diapers, and plastic wrap on items like toilet paper or paper towels are all garbage. Small pieces of wood and lumber can go into your garbage cart. Hair dryers and small plastic appliances are also garbage. Consider donating to charity things like plastic toys, garden hoses, and shoes that are still in good condition. Otherwise, these items go in the garbage cart. Questions about what is garbage and what is recyclable? Call (408) 277-2700.

The Santa Teresa community is located in the San Jose area, near the intersection of Highway 101 and Highway 88.

Construction of Recycled Water Pipeline in the Silver Creek and Santa Teresa Communities

Starting in early 2003, construction of a new water pipeline for the purpose of water reuse will begin in the Silver Creek and Santa Teresa communities and will be completed by December 2003. Construction will begin simultaneously in the San Jose area where the pipeline will be installed. The new pipeline will be installed along Highway 101 and Highway 88, and will be installed along Highway 101 and Highway 88.

All water will remain open, although water will be distributed to the community. The water will be distributed to the community. The water will be distributed to the community.

The water will be distributed to the community. The water will be distributed to the community. The water will be distributed to the community.

Balancing Act: San José W

With growing concern over the lagging state economy, residents throughout California are feeling anxious about what it may mean for their city governments and public services. While San José is no exception to the worry, the City has managed its finances conservatively by judicious trimming, setting aside reserves, and freezing hiring. This has enabled the City to be in a comparatively good position to face a budget challenge of historic proportions.

Complicating our local budget decisions, however, is the looming uncertainty of the state budget crisis. Until the Legislature and Governor approve a new state budget, likely not until the fall, we will not know the full scope of the financial impact on San José. While we don't know how much, we can expect that San José residents will feel the cuts from the state budget.

"Despite this extraordinary challenge, the City Council will be able to balance projected revenues and expenditures while preserving essential services," stated City Manager Del Borgsdorf. "Our next budget will let us deliver the City Council's top priorities for our community in the face of a serious shortfall in City revenues."

So, while the City budget will be balanced, some impacts are inevitable.

Why is there a budget problem?

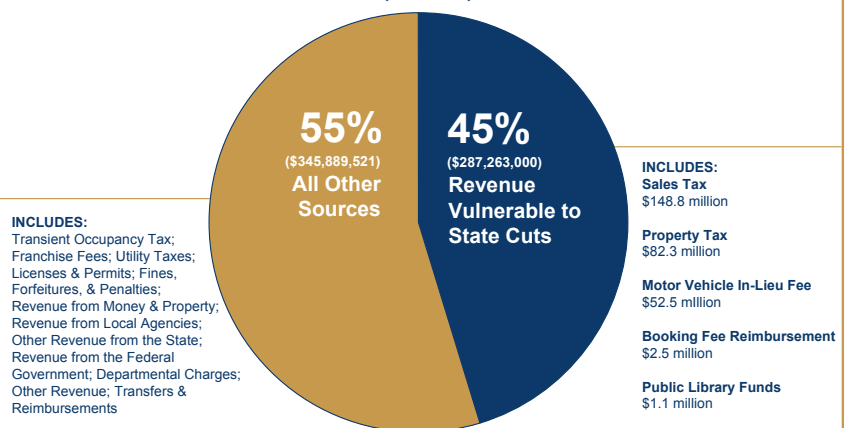
Two significant factors have led to San José's current budget problems. The first is the continuing economic downturn in Silicon Valley. City revenues, such as sales tax and the tax paid by visitors staying in San José hotels, are very sensitive to the slumping economy. As a result, the projected General Fund deficit for the fiscal year beginning July 1 currently stands at \$77 million – nearly 12% of the total General Fund budget. (The General Fund covers basic city services such as police, fire, parks, recreation, libraries, and streets.)

The second factor is the state budget crisis. Governor Davis has proposed measures to address the state's own severe budget deficit – now approaching \$40 billion over the next two years – that could increase San José's shortfall to as much as \$130 million if adopted.

The City is vulnerable to state decisions affecting property tax, sales tax, public library funds, COPS funding/juvenile justice program funding, motor vehicle in-lieu fees, and booking fee

Total General Fund Revenue

\$633,152,521



reimbursements (the state currently reimburses cities for the cost of the fee charged by counties for booking prisoners). Together, the state controls or directly affects 45% of the San José General Fund revenues [see pie chart].

San José's funds are well-managed

The City of San José has a long history of sound fiscal management and has been recognized with one of the highest bond ratings for large cities in California. Even before the economic downturn, the City had projected its revenues conservatively, and as the first signs of recession occurred we set aside an "Economic Uncertainty Reserve" of \$16 million. In addition, two years ago the City began cost-cutting measures including a hiring freeze that has kept 825 jobs vacant – more than 10 percent of the total City workforce.

Excellence in Financial Management

The City of San José is regularly recognized with a number of awards for excellence in financial management and reporting:

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada
- Distinguished Budget Preparation Award for an Outstanding Policy Document from GFOA
- Excellence in Operating Budgeting Award for the City's operating budget document from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO)
- Outstanding Financial Reporting Award For the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from CSMFO

orks to Balance the Budget

Protecting our City's core services

The budget crisis is a challenge that affects us all, but we are committed to minimizing the impact of reductions on residents and essential services. We will continue our strong community partnerships, while sustaining the long-term fiscal

integrity of the City that is essential for quality of life in our neighborhoods and for economic recovery.

"We have some very resourceful people who have gone through difficult budget periods in the past and are committed to solutions that work," said Borgsdorf. "We will be looking at every alternative that is practical and protects neighborhoods and our dedicated employees who provide direct services.

Still, there will be reductions in services, and the City Council will be faced with difficult decisions this spring as we attempt to find a balance that is best for the community.

The Mayor and City Council have directed the City Manager to focus on services and projects that can be reduced or eliminated with minimal impact

See *Budget*, page 8

Budget Timeline	
May 12-23, 2003	Council Study Sessions: 2003-2004 Proposed City and SJRA Budgets
Mid June	Mayor releases final budget recommendations; 2003-2004 Mayor's June Budget Message
June 9th	Final Public Hearing: 2003-2004 Proposed City and RDA Budgets and 2003-04 Fees and Charges Report (evening)
June 10th	Council amends/adopts 2003-2004 Mayor's June Budget Message
June 17th	Council's final adoption of 2003-2004 City and Redevelopment Agency Budgets

Building During the Downturn

During times of economic uncertainty, it is not uncommon for residents to look upon construction projects with some reservation. Why, they ask, should public dollars be spent on buildings when services are threatened?

It's a good question, and the answer may surprise some.

The money used to finance capital projects like the new Civic Center, improvements planned for Mineta San José International Airport, or park and library bond-funded projects are specifically earmarked for these projects. Funding cannot legally be diverted to spend for non-related purposes or to help solve the current budget crisis.

But there's another reason that keeping our capital projects moving forward during an economic recession makes sense. By building during tough economic times, the City can actually save money. Lean times mean companies compete harder for the City's business, and that reduces construction costs. New facilities are less expensive to maintain and operate than the old ones they replace. And as important, construction helps stimulate the economy by creating new jobs.

As an example, the new Civic Center project is funded through the sale of bonds. The Civic Center bond funding, secured before the current budget crisis, cannot be spent on anything else. It can only be used to pay for the costs associated with building the new Civic Center.



New Civic Center

The new Civic Center also will save money down the road by consolidating the City's workforce and eliminating the need to lease office space. We are currently leasing an additional 300,000 square feet of space to accommodate employees who can not fit in the current City Hall. Just like it's better to own your home and pay off a mortgage rather than paying ever-increasing rents, the new Civic Center allow us to save more than \$1.5 billion over the next 55 years.

FIGHT West Nile virus

Target the source.



Protect yourself and your family
through the water.

West Nile virus is carried by mosquitoes, and mosquitoes need standing water to produce more mosquitoes.

To help West Nile virus control mosquito breeding, eliminate ANY standing water on your yard. Water in, above, under, and around your house, garden, and other structures.

Call the Santa Clara County Vector Control District at:

- 408/298-2100 or 408/298-2101 (toll-free)
- you find a dead bird that has recently died
- you see a mosquito or a mosquito larva in your water
- you have any questions about West Nile Virus, mosquitoes or other vectors offered by the Santa Clara County Vector Control District
- you would like a free brochure on West Nile Virus.

SAN JOSE FAMILY CAMP THE SIERRA'S BEST KEPT SECRET



San José Family Camp is a scenic 40-acre campground just outside of Yosemite National Park featuring:

- Summer Family Camp program from mid June through August
- One low price includes complete meal service and tent cabin rental.
- Activities include nature oriented crafts, skits, campfires, swimming, hikes, fishing, other sports and more.
- Fort Tuolumne offers supervised play for youngsters (not licensed daycare).

Call for a brochure and registration information.



San José Family Camp Office
Leininger Center
1300 Senter Road
San José, CA 95112
Phone: 408-277-4666
Fax: 408-277-3270

Explore Your Career Options! Annual Job & Resource Expo

Tuesday, June 4, 2003

11am to 6pm

<http://www.aexpo> or call 1-800-591-7176

SAN JOSE McENERY CONVENTION CENTER

150 W. San Carlos Street

Resume experts will be available to critique your resume!
Use VTA bus routes 23, 24, 85 or take light rail to the Convention Center.

**With over 50 Exhibitors
Free Admission for seekers**

Sponsored by the following



The New King Library

It's countdown time at the new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library! After six years of discussion, planning, and construction in partnership with San Jose State University, the King Library will open its doors on August 1 to San José residents and the university community.

Never before have a major city and a metropolitan university joined forces to create and co-manage a library. The King Library will have it all – academic resources needed for the campus, materials of interest to all age groups of the general public, special interest collections, useful information for businesses, adaptive technology for the disabled, and books, newspapers, magazines and videos in more than 50 languages.

The combined collections of the two libraries total 1.3 million pieces. Both collections are currently being moved into the King Library, a 475,000-square-foot building on the corner of San Fernando and Fourth streets in downtown San José. The new library is situated on several major bus lines and is two blocks from the light rail. Parking is available across the street in the City's new Fourth Street garage.

"Our goal is to maximize access to information for library users in an innovative, cost effective way," explained Library Director Jane Light. "By sharing common space with San Jose State University, we were able to build a joint library that allows us to expand our collections to 700,000 volumes, double our seating, and add state-of-the-art technology."

Light said the collaboration between the City and the University also extends the ability of residents to easily access the library's extensive electronic databases, academic research, popular culture materials, and reference question assistance. Library card holders will be able to tap into the library's 24-hour regional information hub and have materials delivered



The New Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

to any of the 17 branches closest to their home or work.

A community celebration of the King Library opening is scheduled for Saturday, August 16. A dedication ceremony begins mid-morning, and the public is invited to enjoy tours, entertainment, displays, and family activities. More information is available on the King Library website at www.newkinglibrary.org, or the San José Public Library site at www.sjpl.lib.ca.us.

So let the countdown begin!

- 10 levels of library space
- 9 thousand daily visitors projected
- 8-story light canyon
- 7 dozen special features
- 6 self-checkout machines
- 5-member public art team
- 4 funding sources: City of San Jose Redevelopment Agency, State of California, San Jose State University, private donors
- 3 architectural firms
- 2 million volume capacity
- 1 King Library – the only one of its kind in the United States!

The existing main public library will close on June 30, 2003 to move collections and staff to the new location. Watch for announcements and details.

Volunteer Opportunity

There's no better time to "Be a Part of YOUR Library." If you are looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity or other ways to support the library, call (408) 277-4000, or visit the King Library website at www.newkinglibrary.org, or the San José Public Library site at www.sjpl.lib.ca.us.

San José Public Library SUMMER READING CELEBRATION



Kick-off Summer Reading
with free fun & entertainment

Saturday,

June 14, 1pm - 4pm

Dr. King Main Library - Outdoor Patio
180 W. San Carlos St., downtown San José

Pay a final visit to the old Main Library before its final closing on June 30.

CAMP READ-A-LOT

You may also sign up at neighborhood branches starting June 14.

All ages invited. Read for fun & win prizes through August 9.

For more information: (408) 277-4874 • WWW.SJPL.LIB.CA.US



Welcome to the new issue of Inside San José. You may notice some changes with this issue, such as fewer pages and a two-color design. This new format will help decrease the cost involved in producing the Inside San José newsletter. This is just one more way that the City of San José is trying to save money during the economic downturn.

Your Old Cell Phone Belongs in the Zoo!

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo wants your old cell phone!

For each cell phone donated, Happy Hollow will receive funds from the Wireless Foundation. Happy Hollow will then donate the funds to the non-profit Balikpapan Orangutan Society (BOS-USA), which works to preserve the endangered orangutan and its habitat.

Everyone benefits:

- Communities in need receive donated cell phones from the Wireless Foundation
- Resources are saved and the environment protected by reusing the phones
- Endangered animals and their habitats are protected
- You get rid of your old unwanted cell phone(s)



You can donate your used wireless phone at the Happy Hollow front castle entrance any day from 10:00 - 5:00, or mail them to: Happy Hollow, Cell Phone Recycle, 1300 Senter Road, San José, CA, 95112
Please call (408) 277-3065 for more information.

Balancing the Budget

Continued from page 5

on the community; look for partnership opportunities such as sponsorships and underwriting agreements that could help support vital city services; and focus on efforts that will help stimulate economic recovery and job creation.

The Council also has identified core priorities to be protected as much as possible during the budget process. These include building strong neighborhoods, preserving our record as the safest large city in America, ensuring youth services, transportation issues, driving a strong local economy, and making government work better.

How you can be involved in budget decisions

The budget process began with the Mayor's budget strategy in early February and his March budget message released March 19. The City Manager released the Proposed Operating Budget on May 1. Throughout May and June there will be opportunities for residents to address the City Council.

The City Council meets every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall. After considering recommendations and listening to public testimony, the Council will adopt a final budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 in June. [see Budget Timeline sidebar, page 5]

You can read the Mayor's budget message at www.sjmayor.org.